

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

INR-07 LAB-04 NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00

NSCE-00 USIE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAJ-01 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-05

CCO-00 /091 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3593

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7842

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, SP

SUBJ: WORKERS COMMISSIONS MAY ATTEMPT GENERAL STRIKE

REF: A) MADRID 7451 B) MADRID 7757

SUMMARY: SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) IS REPORTED TO HAVE
RECENTLY ISSUED APPEAL THROUGH PCE-MANIPULATED WORKERS
COMMISSIONS FOR NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE ATTEMPT AFTER SUCCESSION
TAKES PLACE. SUCH ATTEMPT APPEARS LIKELY TO FAIL. THE CHANGE
TO MORE ACTIVIST POSTURE MAY, ACCORDING WORKERS COMMISSIONS
LEADER, BE DESIGNED TO COMPENSATE FOR PCE CAPITULATION AT
POLITICAL LEVEL IN RECENT JOINT DOCUMENT OF PCE-MANIPULATED
"JUNTA DEMOCRATICA" AND NON-COMMUNIST "PLATAFORMA DE CON-
VERGENCIA" COALITIONS. END SUMMARY

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1. A NON-COMMUNIST NATIONAL LEADER IN THE PCE-MANIPULATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS TOLD LABATT YESTERDAY THAT WITHIN PAST WEEK ATTITUDE OF COMMUNIST LEADERSHIP OF WORKERS COMMISSIONS TOWARDS EARLY STRIKE ACTIVITY HAD CHANGED. PCE WAS NOW PUSHING ONCE AGAIN ITS LONG-STANDING BUT UTOPIAN GOAL OF A NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE.

2. PCE THIS TIME IS USING APPEAL FOR "DEMOCRATIC ACTION" TO "MOBILIZE THE MASSES", BUT SOURCE SAID PCE CADRES ARE TELLING WORKERS THIS MEANS PCE TRADITIONAL GOAL OF NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE. A SPECIFIC DATE HAD NOT BEEN SET. IT WOULD BE CONTINGENT ON FRANCO'S DEATH, BUT THE PLAN WAS TO SET A DATE WITHIN A WEEK TO TEN DAYS AFTER CAUDILLO'S DEATH. JULIAN ARIZA, THE CHARISMATIC PRINCIPAL PCE WORKER COMMISSION LEADER AND REPRESENTATIVE OF WORKERS COMMISSIONS ON PCE-MANIPULATED "JUNT DEMOCRATICA" HAD JUST TOLD OUR SOURCE IT WAS HOPED ONE MILLION WORKERS THROUGHOUT SPAIN WOULD STRIKE FOR ONE DAY IN RESPONSE TO THIS APPEAL. HE TOLD ARIZA THAT SUCH EXPECTATIONS WERE "CRAZY".

3. SOURCE TOLD LABATT THIS WOULD BE SUICIDAL. HE ADDED THAT MOST NON-PCE ELEMENTS AND GROUPS WITHIN WORKERS COMMISSIONS WERE OPPOSED, AND EVEN SOME PCE ELEMENTS SHARED DOUBTS. ADDITIONALLY, CLANDESTINE LABOR GROUPS OUTSIDE THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS, SUCH AS SOCIALIST UGT AND CATHOLIC-ORIENTED USO, WERE ALSO STRONGLY OPPOSED. SOURCE BELIEVED ANY ATTEMPT WOULD BE A COMPLETE FAILURE, WITH VERY FEW WORKERS RESPONDING. WORKERS ARE SOMEWHAT AFRAID AND WILL NOT WANT TO DO ANYTHING AT THE TRANSITION TO EITHER INVITE POLICE REPRESSION OR LOSS OF JOBS. ONLY IN VARIOUS BARCELONA FACTORIES AND IN A COUPLE OF ONES IN MADRID (SUCH AS THE PEGASO TRUCK PLANT) WHERE PCE CADRES HAVE SOME REAL CONTROL OVER THE WORKERS, WAS THERE LIKELY TO BE SOME RESPONSE TO THE STRIKE CALL.

4. SOURCE VENTURED INTERESTING THEORY FOR PCE SHIFT BACK TO TRADITIONAL APPEAL FOR GENERAL STRIKE. HE CLAIMED IT WAS PROBABLY DUE TO FACT PCE HAD MADE ABOUT FACE AT POLITICAL LEVEL IN "JUNT DEMOCRATICA" IN OCT 30 JOINT STATEMENT BETWEEN "JUNTE" AND NON-COMMUNIST "PLATAFORMA DE CONVERGENCIA" COALITIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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WHEN PCE ABANDONED ITS PREVIOUS DOGMAS OF TOTAL REJECTION OF JUAN CARLOS SUCCESSOR REGIME AND AN ALL-INCLUSIVE PROVISIONAL GOVT (REF B). ACCORDING THIS THEORY, PCE SEC GEN SANTIAGO CARRILLO AFTER HAVING HAD TO CHANGE PCE'S STAND ON THESE KEY ISSUES TO REACH AGREEMENT WITH "PLATAFORMA", HAD GIVEN ORDERS TO PCE'S LABOR ARM, THE WORKERS COMMISSIONS, TO PROCEED WITH GENERAL STRIKE CALL IN ORDER TO DEMONSTRATE TO WORKERS THAT PCE IS STILL A REVOLUTIONARY FORCE. SOURCE

DID NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY PCE MIGHT IN END PRUDENTLY POSTPONE
GENERAL STRIKE ON ONE PRETEXT OR ANOTHER.

5. COMMENT: GENERAL STRIKE ATTEMPT, IF IT TAKES PLACE,
APPEARS LIKELY TO FAIL, ALTHOUGH IT COULD PROVOKE NASTY
INCIDENTS. CERTAINLY SUCH AN ATTEMPT WOULD INVITE POLICE
REPRESSION AND STRENGTHEN THE ULTRA-RIGHT WHICH DEMOCRATIC
OPPOSITION WISHES TO AVOID. EFFORT, IF THERE IS ONE, MAY END
UP BEING POSTPONED TO MORE PROPITIOUS TIME, AT LEAST UNTIL
ONE OR TWO MONTHS AFTER SUCCESSION.
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